

April 2021

Volume 18, Issue 4



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## A Walk in Their Shoes May 13th, 2021



Join us for a night of awareness from your home!

We will be hosting a live watch party on May 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

This means that we will all be watching at the same time!

Although we wish that we could all be together for this event, we know that this is the best option for this year.

It will be a great night to hear about our program, hear stories of our youth, how we have coped and changed because of COVID, and our plans for moving forward. Invite your friends and family for a great night!

## How to Watch "A Walk in Their Shoes"

- Go to [www.youthhope.org/walk-in-their-shoes](http://www.youthhope.org/walk-in-their-shoes) Right before 6:30 pm on May 13, 2021.
  - Click the "watch now" button
- This will open a new tab that will take you to YouthHope's YouTube.
- The video will be available to watch at 6:30 pm. So pop some popcorn, get comfortable, and enjoy "A Walk in Their Shoes".

## Getting The Help I Need

I've been homeless since I was 13. I've lived with my friend's while couch surfing and recently started sleeping in my car. My home life was never good. My mom has a drug problem and I've never met my dad. These series of events have caused me severe depression. I don't have any resources to help my depression and some days are so dark.

One thing that keeps me going is skateboarding. It brings me joy, brings me friends, and I'm pretty good at it. On most days, you can find me at the local skatepark. I'm usually there most of the day. I can skate and forget about the world. I've made some great friends at the skate park that I consider my family now. Skating is the best part of me.

A lot of the people that I spend my day with at the skatepark are in the same shoes as me. They're poor, live in unstable houses, have parents with drug/alcohol substance abuse problems, do drugs themselves, etc. A lot of us need help. We need help from other people besides our family, because our family is unstable.

Last April, we started to noticed

this group coming twice a day to give us food and drinks. We found out quickly that they were here to stay. We've never had any sort of organizations come and offer help like YouthHope did.

After a few weeks, I was curious what YouthHope was. I started having conversations every time YouthHope came to bring us food. I learned that they do way more than just food and drinks and I got to talk to the Director, Heidi. I got to sit down and get real about my depression. She was so helpful and immediately started calling people to get me the help I need. I'm now in thera-

py to help with my depression. Heidi also listened to my passion for skating. She encouraged me to follow my skating dreams and even went and bought me new wrist guards. It shows that they care about us as a whole lot.

They care about our mental health, but they also care about the parts of us that give us joy, like skateboarding.

I can't wait for their Drop In Center to open back up so that I can go visit them. I know that I will use their computer lab for future job searches and find clothes in their clothing pantry. Thank you YouthHope for all that you continue to do for the youth in our community.

### Did You Know?

Since 2011, We have given over 4,800 bus passes to youth going to school or to work.

Without these bus passes, our youth would not be attending school regularly or staying employed.

## A Note From the Founder



A Walk in Their Shoes Fundraiser is one of my favorite nights of the year. Even though I'm sad I won't be able to see so many of you face to face, I'm so thankful for 226 Collective and how they're able to make this fundraiser a reality during a pandemic.

This is a very unique opportunity for you to invite friends, family, and neighbors to watch. It's free to watch and it's from the comfort of your own home so more people may be able to learn about YouthHope.

We are beginning to look at how we can reopen our Drop In Center for our youth safely. We are so excited to be able to serve many of our youth again.

We don't have an official reopening date, but we are following the school district closely and will be reopening as they fully reopen.

Our youth will need bus passes once schools open along with the use of our computer lab to work on homework and job applications.

We are also going to be serving double the amount of meals once

we open up and are looking for volunteers to help cook hot meals for our youth.

If you are interested in helping out, please email [info@youthhope.org](mailto:info@youthhope.org).

We are so thankful for your continued support. This has been the craziest year, yet you all continued to show up and care for our youth. We will never forget the love and support we received and continue to receive!